(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) Detailed plan to improve various animal enclosures in National Zoological Park, Delhi and to make them more naturalistic has been prepared. As envisaged under this plan construction of African Elephant and Chimpanzee enclosure has already been taken up.

Seizure of peacock-feathers at IGI Airport

2549. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "103 kg. of peacock- feathers seized at IGI airport", appearing in the Hindustan Times on 21st July, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact the 103 kg. of feathers believed to be derived from over a 1000 peacocks were seized from the baggage of two passengers, including an Air India employee; and

(c) if so, what exemplary punishment is being awarded to the gang involved in the racket, especially to the Air India Employees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact number of peacocks from which these feathers have been obtained. But the number would be substantial.

(c) Since peacocks shed tail feathers annually, these feathers are outside the purview of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. However, some penalty is imposed on the persons indulging in export of peacock-tail feathers in violation of Export-Import Policy under the Customs Act, 1962.

Area under Ranthambhor Tiger Project

†2550. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered under Ranthambhor Tiger Project in Sawai

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Madhopur, how many times it has been extended during the last 20 years, the amount of compensation/assistance given to the affected persons on account of this;

(b) what facilities are proposed to be provided by Government to persons and villages in the adjoining areas of the project; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend any compensation for the damage caused by wild animals in villages and farms adjoining the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The area covered under Ranthambhor Tiger Project initially during launch of "Project Tiger" in 1973 was 392.5 sq. km. During the last 20 years, it has been extended through three notifications, and the present area is 1394.478 sq. km. The State Government has reported that since the extension of the area did not involve rehabilitation of local communities, no compensation was provided.

(b) The villages within 2 kms. from the periphery of Tiger Reserve have been included in the India Eco- Development Project, where Eco-Development Committees have been formed and village-wise microplans have been prepared and eco-developmental inputs have been provided.

(c) Compensation is paid for loss of domestic livestock by wild carnivores within a radius of 10 kms. from the periphery of the Tiger Reserve. As on date there is no provision for crop compensation in the State.

Pollution from Chloro-alkali and petro-chemicals units

2551. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and medium scale Chloro-alkali and petro-chemicals units emit over 40 per cent of hazardous dioxin pollutants in the air during manufacturing;